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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/592,387	06/12/2000	Carl T. Anderson	RSW9-2000-0026-US1	5014

7590 11/05/2003

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EXAMINER

CHUONG, TRUC T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2174

DATE MAILED: 11/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/592,387

Applicant(s)

ANDERSON ET AL.

Examiner

Truc T Chuong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment A, filed 08/11/03.
2. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 11 are independent claims. In Amendment A, claims 1-5 and 11-15 are amended. This action is made final.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hughes (U.S. Patent No. 6,275,223).

As to claim 1, Hughes teaches a user assistance system for providing user assistance in connection with procedures associated with the operation of a computer program running on a computer system, each of said procedures comprising in interrelated series of selectable steps, with one of the steps being a currently-selected step, said user assistance system comprising:

a client area displaying information pertaining to the currently-selected step (col. 3 lines 38-43); and

a navigator bar adjacent to said work area (figs. 7-10, 15, and 17), said navigator bar displaying a visual representation of said interrelated series of selectable steps associated with said currently-selected step (annotation icons 1512 in an animation window 1508 of fig. 15 show each selectable icon corresponding to each line of code for viewing and inspecting source code,

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col. 15 lines 8-18, and lines of code 1801 and 1802 of fig. 18 show the corresponding with each line of code of fig. 17 above).

As to claim 2, Hughes teaches the user assistance system of claim 1, wherein said navigator bar is dividable into segments, with each segment corresponding to one of said steps of said interrelated series of selectable steps (figs. 15).

As to claim 3, Hughes teaches the user assistance system of claim 2, wherein said visual representation of said interrelated series of selectable steps displayed by said navigator bar includes a display of future steps not yet performed by said computer program (Next icon of fig. 15).

As to claim 4, Hughes teaches the user-assistance program of claim 3, wherein said future steps comprise the most likely steps to be traversed for the procedure associated with the interrelated series of selectable steps being displayed (Previous icon of fig. 15).

As to claim 5, Hughes teaches the user assistance system of claim 4, wherein said visual representation of said interrelated series of selectable steps displayed by said navigator bar further includes:

past steps already performed by said computer program (first source code, col. 12 lines 23-37 and fig. 15); and

the currently-selected step (directly compare, col. 12 lines 34-37).

As to claim 6, Hughes teaches the user assistance system of claim 5, wherein said segments include active segments and inactive segments (demonstration 1.1 and 1.2 of figs. 15), and wherein selection of an active segment changes the currently-selected step to the step corresponding to said selected active segment (col. 12 lines 3-60).

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As to claim 7, Hughes teaches the user assistance system of claim 6, wherein said navigator bar displays said segments in a serial manner, and wherein said navigator bar can be scrolled to allow viewing of segments preceding or following said segment corresponding to said currently-selected step (scroll, col. 12 lines 51-61).

As to claim 8, Hughes teaches the user assistance system of claim 7, wherein the action of scrolling said navigator bar does not change the information being displayed in said client area (col. 12 lines 51-61, figs. 15 and 17).

As to claim 9, Hughes teaches the user assistance system of claim 8, wherein said information displayed in said client area comprises a selectable list of alternative choices for subsequent steps to be taken by said computer program (Annotation of figs. 17-18).

As to claim 10, Hughes teaches the user assistance system of claim 9, wherein selection of one of said alternative choices causes said display of future steps not yet performed by said computer program to change to a display of said future steps associated with said selected alternative choice (before source code is implemented, col. 15 lines 32-42 and figs. 17-18).

As to claims 11-20, they are method claims of system claims 1-10. Note the rejections of claims 1-10 above respectively.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed in Amendment A have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argued the following:

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Hughes fails to disclose the selected items to enable navigation within the windows.

The Examiner disagrees for the following reasons:

Hughes clearly teaches annotation icons 1512 in an animation window 1508 of fig. 15 showing each selectable icon corresponding to each line of code for viewing, inspecting, and navigating throughout the source code, col. 15 lines 8-18, and lines of code 1801 and 1802 of fig. 18 show the corresponding with each line of code of fig. 17 above.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Truc T Chuong whose telephone number is 703-305-5753. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and alternate Fridays 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on 703-308-0640. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Truc T. Chuong

10/27/03

Kristine Kincaid
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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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